mammals, it is of some consequence whether *Uromys* occurs there or not.

Although I did not collect the two specimens in question on the Aru Islands myself, I have no doubt that the locality is correct, because I discovered a closely allied species on New Guinea in May 1873, near Rubi, the south point of Geelvink Bay (therefore not very far from the Aru Islands)—which I call *Uromys papuanus.*

The habitats of the three now known species of *Uromys*, which are very closely allied to each other, are therefore the following:—

1. *Uromys macropus* (Gray): North Australia, Cape York.
2. —— *aruensis*, Gray: Aru Islands.
3. —— *papuanus*, Meyer: New Guinea, Rubi.

Royal Natural-History Museum,
Dresden, January 23, 1876.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICE.

Medicinal Plants; being Descriptions with Original Figures of the Principal Plants employed in Medicine, and an Account of their Properties and Uses. By R. Bentley, F.L.S., and H. Trimen, M.B., F.L.S. London: J. & A. Churchill, 1876. (Four parts issued.)

This work will supply a want which has been felt for a long time, as there is no recent trustworthy book in the English language on the important subject with which it deals; and now that Flückiger and Hanbury's admirable 'Pharmacographia' is published, an illustrated handbook of the plants used in medicine seems more needed than ever. The present work is issued in monthly parts, and contains original coloured plates (natural size), with botanical descriptions and an account of the geographical distribution and officinal properties, of the plants that yield the drugs in common use. In making the selection the British Pharmacopœia has been taken as a foundation; and to the species there included have been added a number of others used medicinally in India and the United States. Altogether the selection made includes between 250 and 300 species. Four parts of the work are already out, with eight or, if the plate be double, seven plants in each. No regular botanical order has been followed; but the plates are numbered so that they may be bound in botanical sequence, according to the natural system, when the book is finished. Of common European officinal plants we have flax, rue, white and black mustard, the juniper, the common poppy, and foxglove; amongst cultivated fruits, the olive, orange, quince, and almond; and of tropical drug- or food-yielding species *Theobroma cacao*, *Croton Eluteria* and *Tiglium*, *Paullinia sorbilis*, and *Mallotus philippinensis*. As far as possible the plates have been drawn from living specimens. They are drawn and lithographed by Mr. Blair, a young and rising botanical artist, and are well executed, with abundant structural detail and colouring not overdone, though in some cases (e. g. *Mentha viridis* and *Digitalis purpurea*) the pictorial effect is marred by superabundance of shading. The letterpress, both botanical and pharmacological, is full and accurate; and altogether the book may be safely recommended as likely to be a complete and trustworthy handbook for medical men, chemists, and all who are interested in the subject.

PROCEEDINGS OF LEARNED SOCIETIES.

ROYAL SOCIETY.

November 25, 1875.—Dr. J. Dalton Hooker, C.B., President, in the Chair.

"On the Structure and Relations of the Alcyonarian *Heliopora cærulea*, with some Account of the Anatomy of a Species of *Sarcophyton*; Notes on the Structure of Species of the Genera *Millepora*, *Pocillopora*, and *Stylaster*; and Remarks on the Affinities of certain Palæozoic Corals." By H. N. Moseley, M.A. (Oxon.), Naturalist to the 'Challenger' Expedition.

Introduction.—The author having undertaken the examination of the Deep-sea Corals dredged during the voyage of H.M.S. 'Challenger,' was led to the study of the structure of corals generally, and especially to the examination of the Milleporidæ, which seemed of peculiar interest, since they had been determined by Professor Agassiz to be Hydroids, and had been regarded by him as living representatives of the Palæozoic Rugosa. *Millepora alcicornis* was obtained and examined at Bermuda, and another species of *Millepora* at Zamboangan, Mindanao, Philippine Islands. The examination of these Millepores was found to be beset with great difficulties, and the present notes on their structure are to be regarded as only preliminary. Further investigations will be made with specimens which it is hoped will be obtained at the Sandwich Islands. At Zamboangan, *Heliopora cærulea* was obtained, and found at once to be an Alcyonarian. Its structure is described in full in the paper. Another Alcyonarian of the genus *Sarcophyton* (Lesson) was examined for the purpose of comparison. It proved to present special features of interest, and a general description of its anatomy also is therefore given. Notes are further appended on the anatomy of a species of *Pocillopora* obtained at Zamboangan,